

SRSRA NEWSLETTER

For SRS Retiree Association Members

Bob & Pat Stokes, Editors

Volume 36 February 2008

“SRSRA Annual Meeting --- March 25, 2008”

(see details on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chairman’s Letter	1	SRSRA Web Site	8
DOE Awards M&O Contract to SRNS	2	Board Meeting Dates	8
SRSRA 2008 Annual Meeting	2	Treasurer’s Report	8
Comments + Responses from 2007 Meeting	3	Bylaws Revision	9
Site Employment for Retirees	4	SRSRA Medical Interface Committee	9
SRSRA BOD Nominations	4	Westinghouse – The Film	10
SRS Activities	5	BC/BS Service Concerns	10
ORA Recreation Site Sale	6	Benefits Contacts	11
Membership	7	SRSRA Membership Form for 2008-2009	11
Newsletter Mailing	8	SRSRA History for 1997-1998	12

CHAIRMAN’S LETTER

In January it looked like at long last a new M&O contractor had been selected by the Department of Energy. At that time, it was announced that Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) had been awarded the contract and that a transition period was to begin with turnover scheduled for April. Later, a challenge was filed with the Government Accounting Office (GAO); and we are once again in a waiting mode. GAO has 90 days to determine if the challenge has merit. After that, the contract will be let or there could be litigation.

Once the new contract is settled, the SRS Retiree Association will be contacting DOE and WSRC to ensure that all retiree pension and post-retirement benefits are included in the new contract. We will also be working with the new contractor if the DOE award is upheld. (See page 2 for additional information on this contract award.)

Based on the Request for Proposal, we anticipate that there will be essentially no changes in pensions or benefits when the new contract goes into effect. We still have concerns about what will happen when the new contractor develops their Human Resources plan that will be based in part on a new benefit value study. We as retirees will be grouped with the incumbent employees. If the benefit value study shows that the site benefits exceed the average of the comparison group by more than 5%, then the new contractor will be required to come up with a revised benefit structure. How retirees would fare is an open question. DOE has said that we should not expect any significant changes but refuses to acknowledge that they have a legacy obligation to honor past commitments or to provide the new contractor with guidance to protect retiree benefits. We have explained this situation to our congressional delegation and have their support for maintaining our benefits. We have to wait to see the proposed new benefit plan before we know if we will require support from our congressional delegations to maintain our pensions and benefits.

We have a committee developing the case for a pension adjustment to partially offset the effect of inflation since our last adjustment in 2002. Even though inflation has been relatively low, we still have lost significant buying power. We will be making an argument for a pension adjustment to the new contractor once the

contract is finally awarded. This is the first step in a process that requires DOE approval of the budget request and congressional funding for the pension increase.

I want to take this opportunity to ask that all of you make an effort to attend the Annual Meeting on Tuesday March 25th at St. Angela Hall on York Street in downtown Aiken. This will be the 10th anniversary of the SRSRA. In recognition of that event, we have attached the "History of the SRSRA for 1997-1998". Please check it out beginning on page 12 of this Newsletter. The publication of that History may just have been the first ever Newsletter for the organization.

As I told you last year, attending the Annual Meeting is important because it shows the members of our congressional delegation or their representatives who will be attending the meeting that we have your support and that we are a constituency to be reckoned with this election year. We are finding more and more that we will need our congressional delegation to protect our pensions and benefits. DOE will not acknowledge any legacy obligation, and the new contractor can only provide benefits that DOE will reimburse.

I look forward to seeing and meeting with you at the Annual Meeting on March 25th.

Nick Kuehn, Chairman
Savannah River Site Retiree Association

DOE Awards M&O Contract to SRNS

The DOE-SR awarded the contract for Management and Operation (M&O) of the Savannah River site to Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), a consortium of four companies headed by Fluor Daniel. URS, the parent company of WSRC, has challenged DOE's basis for awarding the new five-year SRS M&O contract. WSRC has been the primary contractor at the Savannah River Site since 1989 and was a primary bidder for the new SRS contract. The new M&O contract is worth a total of \$4 billion over the five-year life of the contract. So far, no details of the challenge have been released; however, the URS challenge is thought to be significant, since URS does not have a history of challenging DOE contract awards. A 90-day transition to the new M&O contractor was scheduled to begin in February. As a result of the challenge, the transition period has been delayed.

SRS Retiree 2008 Annual Membership Meeting

The 2008 Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday March 25, 2008. The meeting location will be St Angela Hall in Aiken. This is the same location used for the 2007 Annual Meeting. Please mark your schedule for this date and plan on joining your SRSRA Board of Directors and your other retiree friends for the annual update. A map of the area and location of the St. Angela Hall can be found on this link: <http://srsretirees.org/annualmtgmapbig.html>

The doors will open for registration at 12:00 p.m. The meeting will start at 1:30 p.m. We expect the meeting to run for approximately 2 hours (with a break for refreshments).

NOTE: We have contacted the staffs of several members of Congress from the Georgia and South Carolina delegations. We hope to have one or more members of Congress attend our upcoming Annual Meeting. We appreciate the support provided by key members of the two delegations and have invited them to give us some “words of wisdom” regarding our benefits, SRS status, and other issues.

DOOR PRIZES TOTALING \$1,000 WILL BE AWARDED AT THE MEETING!

Rules for the Door Prizes: You must be a 2008 member of SRSRA; you must register before 1:30 at the Annual Meeting; and you must be present during the drawing to win the door prizes.

You are encouraged to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

Comments and Responses from the 2007 Annual Meeting

Length of Meeting:

Why are politicians invited to speak: and if they are unable to attend, why read their letters? We need Congressional delegations from South Carolina and Georgia to understand what the SRSRA is and what our concerns are. **Without their help, we will not be able to maintain our benefits.** We also need to understand the problems they deal with on a daily basis and how we can work together for the best outcome for all.

In addition, we need a large, attentive audience to show support and concern for the issues that affect the retirees in the organization. If you do not support the organization by attending the annual meeting and listening to the delegation, why should they support us when retirements benefits are threatened?

Why does the Chairman speak in both halves of the meeting? We want to do a brief presentation at the beginning of the meeting so the Congressional delegation representatives will hear our “hot button” issues. These issues with more details and other information are presented after the break for our membership when most of the representatives are gone. We plan to reduce the duplication this year.

Long or Repetitive Introductions of Speakers: The SRSRA will strive to reduce duplication of information presented for speaker introductions. We will shorten the presentation of work history for the invited speakers.

Bylaws Changes should have been printed out: At the 2007 Annual Meeting the proposed changes to the Bylaws were written out and projected on screen for the membership to vote on. They had previously been sent to all 2007 active members in the last Newsletter (March 2007) published before the 2007 SRSRA Annual Meeting.

Please note that two Bylaws changes are needed to fully implement the approval given last year by membership vote at that meeting. Those changes are spelled out in this Newsletter on page 9 and will be voted on at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

More rigor is needed in the nomination process: In the November 2007 Newsletter, a call for nominations that members would like presented at the 2008 Annual Meeting was made. (No nominations were received before publication of this Newsletter.) The membership application has a block asking for those willing to be considered for nomination to the Board of Directors. The BOD has reviewed those membership applications and has selected this year's nominees. The member nominated from the floor last year was contacted but declined to run this year due to workload considerations. Please see below for further discussion of nominations.

Congestion at registration tables: The registration is being moved away from the door, and there will be overhead signs. Hopefully, this will reduce the congestion at the entrance.

Why is the meeting scheduled near Easter? Our Bylaws require that the annual meeting be held in March or as soon thereafter is practical. Also, we always strive to get a Congressional representative to speak at the meeting. Most of the time, Congress has an Easter break; and therefore, our representatives for South Carolina and Georgia are available around the Easter holiday.

The Meeting start time is awkward. This year we are starting registration at noon and the meeting at 1:30 pm. This should allow time for attendees driving an hour to get lunch before the meeting starts.

Site Employment for Retirees

In response to the memo from our chairman asking for applications from retirees interested in working at SRS, forty-five retirees submitted applications. A list of those who applied and a database of the information submitted were compiled by the SRS Retiree Association. This list and database as well as copies of the applications were forwarded to Site Staffing and Employee Relations. WSRC reviewed the work histories of the applicants and supplemented the information in the applications. Because of issues related to the contract transition, no hiring has occurred. We have been told that the list will be made available to the new contractor and hope that some or all of the applicants will be contacted and offered work. Unfortunately, we have no schedule for when the applicants will be contacted.

SRSRA BOD NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee has developed the ballot for this year's election of members to the SRSRA Board of Directors (BOD), which will take place during the Annual Meeting on March 25. Each candidate must meet several requirements to qualify for a position on the ballot: He/she must be a member of the SRSRA in good standing and must believe that the work of the Board is important; must want to participate in it; and must have the time to do so. In addition, the Nominating Committee makes a deliberate effort to assure that the overall composition of the BOD remains diversified. We strive for a diverse Board whose members reside in a variety of cities and towns in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA).

This year eleven of the fifteen members whose terms expire are seeking reelection; therefore, four new candidates are needed to replace those who are retiring from the Board. Two additional members are leaving the Board in mid-term, for health and personal schedule reasons, so two replacements are needed to fill their remaining year of service. Last, and sadly, one other member, Charles E. Riley, recently passed away and a replacement is needed to fill the remaining year of his term also. In all, the ballot will contain the names of the eleven members seeking reelection plus the seven new candidates (four for two-year terms and three for one-year terms). The Nominating Committee has contacted SRSRA members who have previously indicated interest in serving on the BOD and has determined their current interest and availability. A proposed final ballot will be presented to the Board for approval on March 4th, prior to the Annual Meeting on March 25.

SRS ACTIVITIES

SRS FY 2008 Budget

The FY-09 President's Budget was recently submitted to Congress and shows an increase of approximately \$100 million for SRS, some three quarters of that allocated to the Environmental Cleanup Program. Approximately \$10M more is allocated to the SR National Laboratory. At a recent SRS Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) meeting, DOE staff indicated that Headquarters is currently evaluating how to reduce the future huge annual costs of the EM budgets across the Complex. The good news is that SRS is regarded as having a superb performance in the Complex for all its work in this area, and will not be impacted by any of these reductions. In other good news, the NNSA Budget for the Site increases from \$668 million to \$813 million. The majority of this increase, \$497 to \$615 million, will go to increase funding the MOX production facility.

As one of the biggest money winners in the first trillion-dollar budget, the DOE's \$25 billion budget increased \$1.073 billion from the 2008 appropriations. The increase reflects the President's focus on alternative energy systems and clean fuel sources such as nuclear power.

New Process Startup

WSRC has just completed an innovative waste treatment process that will dissolve and remove aluminum from SRS high-level radioactive waste tank sludge. This process will save the Department of Energy about \$40 million total. By eliminating most of the aluminum in waste sludge, thousands of gallons of waste will not be sent to the Site's Defense Waste Processing Facility (DWPF). (The DWPF process converts high level radioactive waste to a stable glass form and encapsulates and seals it within stainless steel canisters. After interim on-Site storage, these canisters will be sent to a Federal repository for permanent disposition.) The new aluminum elimination process will reduce the final number of glass waste canisters by 100.

TRU Waste Disposal

As a result of WSRC's accelerated program, the 25,000th drum of transuranic (TRU) waste has been shipped to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) in New Mexico. TRU waste consists of clothing, tools, rags, debris, and other such items contaminated with radioactive elements, primarily plutonium, with an atomic number greater than uranium at specific concentrations. A total of 30,000 drums (11,000 cubic meters) of TRU waste has been

generated since SRP startup in the early 1950's. WSRC began TRU shipments to WIPP in 1999. The last of the remaining 5,000 drums is scheduled to be shipped by 2009, thereby closing a significant chapter in SRS waste management.

Community Support

In February, DOE and WSRC sponsored and supported several local community scientific and technical events to stimulate and encourage young people in the areas of science, mathematics, environmental cleanup, and engineering. These events were Technology Days at the Fort Discovery National Science Center in Augusta, Ga., and the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Science Bowl. Technology Days provides interactive exhibits that encourage and motivate students to seek careers in the fields of math, science, and technology. The DOE National Science Bowl is a national competition between high school teams in the areas of mathematics and science. The CSRA and South Carolina regional competition with 23 teams was held at the University of South Carolina's Aiken campus. Teams from forty-one (41) states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands (a total of 17,000 students) are involved in the competition. The national finals are in Washington, DC in May.

ORA Recreation Site Sale Completed

As many of you know, the ORA has recently completed the sale of the ORA Recreation Site to Aiken County. The ORA purchased the property in 1984 to help fulfill the recreational needs of SRS employees. As the average age of Site population continued to rise, the number of participants in ORA recreational activities began to decline. In addition, the amount of revenue that the ORA Site brought in had never come close to the cost of operating the facility. That, coupled with the reduction or elimination of several ORA income sources, forced the ORA Board to look into eliminating what had become a threat to ORA's existence.

ORA first contacted the Aiken County Council about their possible interest in the property back in December 2005. Shortly after that, word got out about ORA's desire to sell the property; and ORA was soon contacted by several private investors who were making lucrative offers. Although ORA could have received more money by selling to the private sector, the ORA Board felt it was the best thing for the employees of the Savannah River Site and the community to keep it as a recreational facility and to preserve green space for future generations. After months of negotiations, the ORA Board of Directors accepted Aiken County's offer of \$2 million as the purchase price in October 2006. Aiken County took over the operation of the facility under a lease agreement in March 2007, and a purchase agreement was signed in April 2007. Both Aiken County and the ORA had to settle some issues before the sale could be finalized. With the hard work of the Aiken County Council and the ORA Board of Directors, these issues were resolved; and the closing documents were signed at the end of January 2008.

Now what does ORA do? ORA no longer has the financial burden of operating the recreation area and it has this large sum of money from the sale.

The ORA Board has been meeting to discuss how to best use these funds. ORA must keep in mind that these funds will be needed to secure ORA's existence for many years to come. There are several things ORA would

like to take on first. Included on that list is a makeover of the ORA Store. ORA does have plans to upgrade the types of items they carry and to have a good selection of logo merchandise. They also have plans to use the purchasing power of the employee and retiree base to obtain additional discounts from a greater number of companies. There are also some activities that ORA had to eliminate over the years based on the costs associated with them but ORA may now reconsider them.

You can also help. The vast knowledge that the SRS Retiree community has is a highly valuable tool that the ORA has not utilized before. The ORA Board would like to hear from you if you have any ideas on how they can make the ORA a better organization for the employees and retirees of the Savannah River Site. Please feel free to contact the ORA if you have an activity you would like them to pursue or even if you just have a question for them. These ORA Board members would like to hear from you.

Quitman White
ORA Board: SRSRA Representative
706-399-4606
qtwhite@bellsouth.net

Ben Burnau
ORA Executive Director
803-952-9866
ben.burnau@srs.gov

MEMBERSHIP

We finished 2007 with 1,030 members; this is the first time our membership exceeded 1,000! Currently we have 935 paid members for 2008 and want to reach 1,000 again this year. The larger our membership, the stronger our voice is when we talk to DOE, the SRS contractor, and our congressional representatives.

With the uncertainty that comes with contract transition, we need to present as strong a front as possible to ensure protection of our benefits. Please ask any of your retired friends if they are members. If they are not, encourage them to join. If you know of a deceased retiree, let their surviving spouse know that he or she can become a member. The annual dues for a surviving spouse are \$5.

If someone is interested in joining, they can:

1. use the application form included in this Newsletter.
2. obtain an application form from our website www.srsretirees.org.
3. send a request to membership@srsretirees.org
4. send a request to SRS Retiree Association, P.O. Box 5686, Aiken, SC 29084
5. call Ed Somers, Membership Chairman, at 803-642-3088 or 803-295-3889 (leave a message)

If your friends have not renewed for 2008, now is the time to remind them to join us! If they were members in 2007, they should have received an e-mail or letter with a 2008 membership form attached. Join SRSRA NOW! You won't find a better value for your \$15 yearly dues!

NEWSLETTER MAILING

We still experience incorrect e-mail addresses and bounced communications to our membership. A number of e-mails have been returned for incorrect addresses; recipient mailbox over quota; recipient not accepting mail from SRSRA; and several others indicating that our database needs some "tuning up". If you have an active e-mail address, or have changed your address recently and are not receiving SRSRA communications by e-mail, please contact membership@srsretirees.org. Our e-mail program allows us to reach over 600 members more quickly with news. Other pluses are quicker distribution of the Newsletter and less cost of copying and mailing hard copies. Thanks to all of you who are receiving your Newsletter by e-mail.

SRSRA WEB SITE - WHEN IN DOUBT, LOOK TO THE SRSRA WEB SITE!!

Links continue to be added to make it easier to find medical and other useful information. If any member has found useful web sites that they believe would benefit all members, please submit them to the webmaster (e-mail address is listed on the Committee web page). Just send an e-mail to: webmaster@srsretirees.org.

Information has been added to the "About Us" page concerning the 2002 pension adjustment. The last paragraph of that section shows that the pension adjustment was only about one-third the inflation rate during the period following retirement in mid-1995. The direct link to that section is:

<http://srsretirees.org/aboutus.html#pensadj02>

An SRSRA Membership Form is also available on the web site.

BOARD MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

The SRSRA Board of Directors meets at 10:00 A.M. in the Conference Room at Eden Gardens off Silver Bluff Road near Woodside Executive Park. Association members may attend Board meetings and participate, but may not vote on Board issues. If you ever plan to attend a meeting, be sure to contact a BOD member to confirm that the meeting date and time has not changed. **BOD meeting dates are listed on the website but are generally on the first Tuesday each month unless impacted by a holiday or special event.**

TREASURER'S REPORT - Stan Smith, Treasurer

The following summarizes financial activity for the first seven months of this fiscal year (July 07 through January 08):

Opening Balance (July 1, 2007)	\$33,277.50
Income	\$10,550.12
Expenses	<u>\$ 4,970.59</u>
Closing Balance (January 31, 2008)	\$38,857.03

All income since the last Newsletter was derived from membership dues. Major expenses since the last Newsletter were the November Newsletter printing costs, postage for Newsletter mailing and Membership Committee activities, and the Washington, DC trip by three of our Board members. The closing balance shown above includes \$25,000 in CD's.

Bylaws Revisions

The BOD and Membership approved a change to the Bylaws at the 2007 Annual Meeting, adding a Third Vice-Chairperson to **Article VI, Section 2. Duties**. That change should have included additional complementary changes to **Article III-Members** and **Article IV-Board of Directors**.

The revisions still needed to complete the approval received at the 2007 Annual Meeting have been approved by the Board of Directors as proposed by the Bylaws Committee. The wording added to these sections are shown in **BOLD** below and will be presented for Membership approval at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

SRSRA bylaws can be viewed at the SRSRA WEB site.

Revisions:

ARTICLE III – Members

Section 6. Organization. The Chairperson; or in his/her absence, the First Vice-Chairperson, or in his/her absence, the Second Vice-Chairperson; **or in their absence, the Third Vice-Chairperson**, or in their absence, a Chairperson chosen by the Board Members present, shall preside at each meeting of the members and shall act as Chairperson thereof. Meetings shall be governed by the then current edition of Robert's Rules of Order to the extent that such rules do not conflict with these Bylaws or with any special rules of order that the Corporation may adopt.

ARTICLE IV - Board of Directors

Section 7. Organization. The Chairperson; or in his/her absence, the First Vice-Chairperson; or in his/her absence, the Second Vice-Chairperson, **or in their absence, the Third Vice-Chairperson**, or in their absence a Chairperson chosen by the Board Members present, shall preside at each meeting of the Board of Directors and shall act as Chairperson thereof. Meetings shall be governed by the then current edition of Robert's Rules of Order to the extent that such rules do not conflict with these Bylaws or with any special rules of order that the Corporation may adopt.

SRSRA Medical Interface Committee

Prescription Eyeglasses

In the last several months several retirees have inquired about eye care issues. This is something that affects a great number of our retirees so we would like to ensure that all members are aware of their insurance coverage pertaining to eyeglasses, eye exams, etc.

Retirees are not eligible for eye care insurance through the Site. Blue Cross/Blue Shield does, however, cover cataract surgery as standard medical treatment. Eye exams are not covered through Blue Cross/Blue Shield, nor is the cost of eyeglasses. Safety eyeglasses can, however, be obtained on Site by calling Tom Cuny at 803-208-8515 and setting up an appointment. (Note: Friday is the only day he is "up front" and accessible without badging.) Such glasses are very reasonable in cost and possibly much cheaper than insurance premiums for such coverage.

Medicare does cover the cost of the first pair of eyeglasses if needed after a person has had cataract surgery.

BC/BS at the 2008 Annual Meeting

At this year's Annual Meeting, we plan to provide the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) representatives with access to the Internet so that they can try to resolve any billing or reimbursement problems for you while you wait. Please bring copies of any paperwork related to these concerns to leave with the BCBS representatives in the event they are unable to completely resolve the problems for you while at the Annual Meeting.

Reminder

An e-mail to this address will reach the entire Medical Interface Committee. Please let us know if you have problems that you have experienced, or solved, and we will alert other members to these problems.

medicalbenefits@srsretirees.org

Westinghouse – The Film

A feature-length documentary film on the history of George Westinghouse and his companies is scheduled for release as a DVD on April 8, 2008. This will be of great interest to those of us with a career (or life time) association with one of the industrial giants of the 20th century. Details are available at the film's website: incom.com/products/consumer/westinghousefilm

BC/BS SERVICE CONCERNS

We have many letters from retirees trying to get proper Blue Cross/Blue Shield reimbursement for their medical bills. Most of the problems occur when the retiree/patient lives out-of-state (i.e., no longer in SC). If you have records of BC/BS service problems to share with SRSRA members, please **send a letter outlining your case to both:**

Dale Friar, Medical Benefits Committee
SRS Retiree Association
P.O. Box 5686
Aiken, SC 29804

Kaye Bozeman, Major Service Representative
I-20 at Alpine Road AV-100
Columbia, SC 29219

or e-mail your information to: KAYE.BOZEMAN@cbssc.com, or Fax: 1-803-264-9353. You can also call Tawonda Knapper, your BC/BS service representative, toll-free at 800-325-6596. As a last resort, you can call Kaye Bozeman at 800-288-2227, extension 44452 or 803-264-4452.

BENEFITS CONTACTS

People Support Service Center (a one-stop service for most HR and payroll activities and questions).

- ◆ **803-725-7772 (local area SC and GA)**
- ◆ **800-368-7333 (long distance)**
- ◆ **service-center@srs.gov (e-mail contact for this new service)**

- | | |
|---|--|
| ◇ Life, Health, Dental
Becky Proveaux PS Svc. Ctr. #
Rosalee Bennett PS Svc. Ctr. #
Wanda McGee 803-725-0531
Cindy McClintock 803-725-7004 | ◇ Westinghouse Corp. SIP 800-581-3366
http://westinghouse.csplans.com |
| ◇ Pension
Pat Smith 803-725-7722
Viola Best 803-725-1900 | ◇ Safety Eyeglass Office
Tom Cuny 803-208-8515 |
| ◇ Internal Medicine Partners 706-792-5075
(Annual Physical Examinations) | ◇ Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC 800-325-6596
www.southcarolinablues.com
Option 1 for Medical
Option 2 for Dental
Option 3 for Pre-Cert/Med Authorization |
| ◇ WSRC/BSRI Savings Plan 800-360-2747
http://resources.hewitt.com/wsrc | ◇ Medicare Helpline 800-633-4227 |
| ◇ Westinghouse Corp. Pension 800-581-4222 | ◇ Medicare Web Site
www.medicare.gov |
| | ◇ Value Options (mental health & substance abuse assistance) 800-333-6557 |

Savannah River Site Retiree Association 2008-2009 Membership Application

Annual Dues:

Year 2008

_____ \$15 for Retiree
_____ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)
_____ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

Year 2009

_____ \$15 for Retiree
_____ \$0 for Retiree's Spouse (also retired from SRS)
_____ \$5 for Retiree's Surviving Spouse

SRS RETIREE NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

RETIRED FROM: WSRC ___ BSRI ___ BWXT-SRC ___ BNFL-SRC ___ OTHER _____

DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SRS RETIRED OR SURVIVING SPOUSE NAME _____

RETIRED FROM: WSRC ___ BSRI ___ BWXT-SRC ___ BNFL-SRC ___ OTHER _____

DATE OF RETIREMENT _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Return to: **SRS Retiree Association**
P. O. Box 5686
Aiken, SC 29804
Attn: Ed Somers

1997-98 HISTORY **SRS RETIREE ASSOCIATION**

This document records a brief history of the SRS Retiree Association for year 1997-98 and includes activities from the Association's inception in June 1997 through its first Annual Membership Meeting on January 13, 1998.

Initial Organization

On June 2, 1997 the Westinghouse Savannah River Company (WSRC) announced that it would begin charging retirees a substantial premium for health insurance that it had heretofore promised would be premium free. The premium would apply to both retirees of WSRC and Bechtel Savannah River, Incorporated (BSRI). Additionally, and without announcement, WSRC had discontinued offering annual site physical examinations to retirees effective April 1, 1997 - another longstanding, promised benefit.

The June 2 announcement caused considerable upset among retirees and prompted action by many.

On June 25, 1997 Fred Cavanaugh (a retiree who was also mayor of the City of Aiken) sent a fax to the Savannah River Site Department of Energy (SRS-DOE) and WSRC management. He expressed his concern not only as a retiree, but also as Mayor of the City of Aiken and a recognized community leader and supporter of the Savannah River Site (SRS). He followed this fax with a letter to WSRC President Ambrose Schwallie on June 28 to again express his concerns and to request a meeting with Schwallie. Schwallie agreed to a meeting and on July 17, 1997 met with a group of retirees consisting of Fred Cavanaugh, Bill Quinn, Dick Barclay, Bob Bristol, Pat Walker and Paul Cook. The meeting resulted in Schwallie's agreement to look into retiree concerns and meet again with the group.

Also, in late June 1997 a group of retirees headed by Mike French, Dick Barclay, Ray Sabol, Bob Stokes, Jim Moorehead and John Cerminara began a movement to write letters to the Congressional Delegations from South Carolina (Senators Fritz Hollings and Strom Thurmond and Congressmen Lindsey Graham and Floyd Spence) and Georgia (Senators Max Cleland and Paul Coverdale and Congressman Charlie Norwood) asking their help in getting WSRC to honor its long-standing commitment to its retirees. Response from the Delegations was good.

Also, in late July 1997 Fred Cavanaugh and Dean Findley had a chance meeting at which time they discussed their concerns over the health insurance changes. Cavanaugh and Findley then arranged a couple of meetings with concerned retirees including Bill Quinn, Bob Bristol, Bob Stokes, Mike French, Dick Barclay and Paul Cook at the Shoney Restaurant in Aiken, SC to discuss their concerns and develop a strategy to convey these concerns to WSRC management.

With pressure from retirees, the Congressional Delegations and newspaper articles, Schwallie again met with the above retiree group on August 7, 1997 and informed them that WSRC would grant premium free Standard Medical & Dental Insurance to retirees, their families and survivors vice the present Prime Medical & Standard Dental Insurance coverage. This was a meaningful concession.

The success of these meetings and the letter writing movement re-enforced the belief of retirees that a strong and dedicated organization was necessary to protect their benefits.

As a result, a meeting of retirees was arranged at the Knights Of Columbus Hall in Aiken, SC on July 28, 1997. Between 50 and 60 retirees attended. All were enthusiastic about the need for unified action if WSRC/BSRI retiree benefits were to be protected.

Formal Organization

Following the July 28 meeting and under the leadership of Mike French and Fred Cavanaugh the core group of 50 to 60 retirees continued to meet regularly and to discuss among other things the need for a formal organization. Action from these meetings resulted in the establishment of the SRS Retiree Association (SRSRA) and the appointment of a 26-member Board of Directors.

At its first formal meeting on September 30, 1997 the SRSRA Board of Directors elected 13 of its members to serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee in turn elected the following as the first officers of the newly formed Association:

Chairman: Tom Greene
Vice Chairman: Bill Quinn
Secretary: Dick Barclay
Treasurer: Ray Sabol

Attached is a complete list of the first members of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. At the next board meeting on October 14, 1997 five standing committees were approved and committee officers appointed as follows:

Committee	Chairman	Vice Chairman
Retiree Issues Committee	Dean Findley	Jim Moorehead
Public Relations Committee	Fred Cavanaugh	Mike French
Finance Committee	Ray Sabol	Minnie Walker
Membership Committee	Gus Griffin	Henry Mitchell
Charter & Bylaws Committee	Jerry Croom	Paul Mathews

Purpose and Membership

Much discussion was held over the next few meetings about what should be the stated purpose of the Association and who should be eligible for membership. The purpose was eventually defined in the following mission statement:

"The mission of the SRS Retirees Association is to maintain the pensions and benefits given at time of retirement, on an inflation adjusted basis, and to support current and future missions of the Savannah River Site."

Membership eligibility was determined to be retirees who receive pensions from WSRC/BSRI or are eligible to receive pensions. Annual membership dues would be \$15. No formal membership enrollment campaign was begun until just prior to the first Annual Membership Meeting which was held on January 13, 1998. These efforts along with efforts at and following the Annual Membership Meeting resulted in paid membership totaling 190.

Charter and Bylaws

Bylaws were adopted at an organizational meeting on September 9, 1998 and were written to meet Federal Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(4) regulations for a nonprofit organization and State of South Carolina corporation codes. Applications were filed with federal and state agencies for approval. Meeting both federal and state requirements would provide a sound professional basis for operation of the Association.

Finances

Association income is derived primarily from membership dues. Expenses are primarily for such items as stationery, postage, printing, mailings to the membership, meeting hall rental, advertising the Association, Annual Membership Meetings, post box rental and incorporation fees. No officer, director, committeeman or any other member is in anyway compensated for SRSRA duties. Income for the first year totaled approximately \$3235. Expenses were approximately \$635, resulting in a balance of approximately \$2600.

Accomplishments

- In less than three months, retirees from several cities located in two states came together to create a formal organization dedicated to protecting earned and promised benefits from the Savannah River Site.
- With the active participation and leadership of Chairman Tom Greene (former Mayor of the City of North Augusta, SC) and Fred Cavanaugh (Mayor of the City of Aiken, SC) the Association quickly established credibility with WSRC/BSRI and DOE management and the Washington Congressional Delegations - particularly Congressmen Lindsey Graham (SC) and Charlie Norwood (GA).
- It helped to achieve a reduction in the amount of health insurance premiums to be charged retirees (June 2 and August 7, 1997 WSRC letters to retirees) resulting in a noticeable savings to retirees.
- For example, a retiree under the age of 65 saves \$144 per year for single coverage whereas the same retiree would save \$708 per year for family coverage.
- A letter prepared by SRSRA and signed by 20 U. S. senators and congressmen from the states of South Carolina and Georgia was sent to WSRC President Ambrose Schwallie on November 7, 1997 requesting that annual site physicals be reinstated. This was achieved via the excellent relationship SRSRA had established with Congressman Lindsay Graham.
- It conducted a successful Membership Meeting on January 13, 1998 at which approximately 200 retirees attended.
- It established an aggressive agenda to pursue reinstatement of site physicals and premium-free medical coverage, to protect current dental and life insurance benefits, to pursue cost-of-living pension increases and to protect benefits when contractors change.

FOUNDING MEMBERS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SRS RETIREE ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 1997

Richard E. Barclay Aiken, SC
Executive Committee

Jane M. Boyles
Martinez, GA

Robert L. Bristol
Aiken, SC

Fred B. Cavanaugh
Aiken, SC
Executive Committee

Mike Cohen
Martinez, GA

Paul L. Cook
Augusta, GA
Executive Committee -

R. Gerald Croom
North Augusta, SC
Executive Committee

Sidney D. Curry
Martinez, GA
Executive Committee

Dean Findley
Aiken, SC
Executive Committee

P. Mike French
Aiken, SC
Executive Committee

Thomas W. Greene
North Augusta, SC
Executive Committee

George A. Griffin
Aiken, SC
Executive Committee

Donald M. Grogan
North Augusta, SC

Horace E. Landrum
Jackson, SC

Paul W. Mathews
Aiken, SC

J. Larry McFee
Aiken, SC

Henry O. Mitchell
Augusta, GA
Executive Committee

Jim R. Moorehead
Aiken, SC

Jim E. O'Hair
North Augusta, SC

William A. Quinn
Aiken, SC
Executive Committee

Gorman C. Ridgeley
Aiken, SC

Raymond P. Sabol
Aiken, SC
Executive Committee

Allan A. Schmidt
Aiken, SC

Robert A. Stokes
Aiken, SC

Dannie F. Walker
North Augusta, SC

Patricia C. Walker
Hephzibah, GA
Executive Committee

Editors' Note: Our special thanks to Don Grogan for recovering this piece of SRSRA history which he authored as the SRSRA Historian in 1998. With the help of Bill Quinn, it is provided as a reminder to all of us about where we were and how far we have come in ten years!